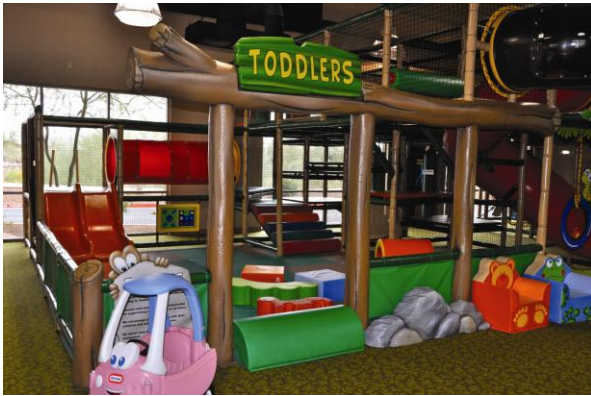


Around Town

“PlayGrounds Fun Zone & Cafe”



By Master Sgt. Cindy Dorfner



I’m always leery of indoor kids’ play areas. It seems no matter how well intentioned, they always just feel dirty. So, when I was invited to meet some other moms at the PlayGrounds Fun Zone & Café in Glendale, I was slightly hesitant. Once we got there, my worries were put to rest.

PlayGrounds is a 3,500 square foot indoor play facility for kids under 8, but there’s something for the parents, as well. With comfy couches and several tables and chairs, parents can relax and enjoy a coffee from the barista. The whole family can enjoy breakfast or lunch from a full menu of salads, sandwiches and treats. As expected, there’s a kids’ menu that even features a Fluffernutter sandwich.

Kids (and parents) check in at the “Ranger Station” and then head off to explore the “north woods.” The décor is cute and bright.

The actual play equipment at first appears small, but my 4- and 2-year olds explored, climbed, crawled and slid for hours. There’s also an area for the smaller ones under 42-inches. We’ve been there twice and the second time it got pretty crowded, but amazingly, it wasn’t very loud. And, the staff sanitizes it every day.

Prices are reasonable and if you buy a “punch card,” it’s downright cheap. And, they even offer a 20-percent military discount. Also, once you’re there, you can stay. You don’t pay by the hour or for a two-hour block. Just don’t forget your socks.

PlayGrounds opened almost a year ago by a dad, James Bernau, who wanted a fun place “where kids can play and parents want to stay.” This family of four thinks he did just that. We’ll be going back for my son’s birthday party in May. To find out more, visit www.playgroundsfunzone.com.

Store Hours:

Monday – closed

Tuesday through Saturday – 7am to 4pm

Sunday – 8am to 2pm

Rates:

Standard - \$8

Sibling - \$6

5-punch card - \$25

10-punch Card - \$45

Full month - \$46

2nd Child full month - \$23